



# Preparing to Reopen Your Library

---

APRIL 23, 2020

# No time to reflect

---





# Start with what we know

---

COVID-19 Health Mandate 2.1

Issued: March 16, 2020

Updated: April 1, 2020

State-operated libraries, archives, and museums serve as public facilities in which Alaskans meet and congregate on a daily basis. In an effort to protect Alaskans and slow the spread of the virus, **all** libraries, archives and museums shall be closed to the public from March 17, 2020 through March 31, 2020.

Governor, Mike Dunleavy

Commission Adam Crum, Alaska Department of Health and Social Services

Dr. Anne Zink, Chief Medical Officer, State of Alaska

<https://covid19.alaska.gov/health-mandates/>



# Plan for the “inevitable” reopening

---

JOHNS HOPKINS  
BLOOMBERG SCHOOL  
*of* PUBLIC HEALTH

Center for Health Security

**Public Health Principles for a  
Phased Reopening During COVID-19:  
Guidance for Governors**

# Risk of Libraries Reopening

---

## Community Gathering Spaces

Community spaces provide important societal benefits and can range from civic centers to places of worship. The risk in these spaces is highly dependent on the size of the population they serve and the size of the space.

Category	Contact Intensity	Number of Contacts	Modification Potential	Mitigation Resources
Places of worship	High	High	Medium	<a href="#">CDC</a> , <a href="#">FAQ for Faith Leaders from NYC</a> , <a href="#">Guidance from NY state</a> , <a href="#">Risk Assessment from WHO</a> , <a href="#">Decision Tree from WHO</a>
Libraries <sup>§</sup>	Low	Low	Medium	<a href="#">CDC</a> , <a href="#">Guidance from Baltimore County Library</a>
Community centers	Medium	High	Medium	<a href="#">CDC</a> , <a href="#">Guidance from PA</a> , <a href="#">Guidance from Riverside University Health System</a> , <a href="#">Guidance from IL</a>

§ Libraries that incorporate social activities or community gatherings into their services should refer to the “community centers” category.

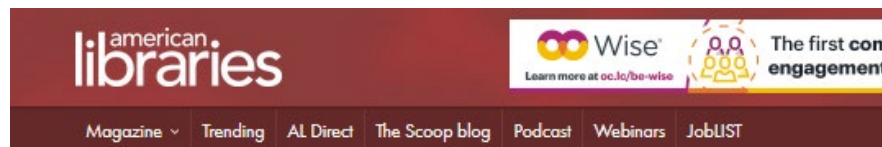
# May need to re-evaluate children's programs

---

Category	Contact Intensity	Number of Contacts	Modification Potential	Mitigation Resources
Childcare facilities (daycare, preschools)	High	Medium/High	Low/Medium	<a href="#">CDC</a> , <a href="#">WHO</a>
Schools (elementary, middle, and high)	High	High	Low	<a href="#">CDC</a> , <a href="#">WHO</a>
Contact school sports	High	Medium/High	Low	<a href="#">NCAA</a> , <a href="#">CDC</a>
Noncontact school sports	Low	Medium	High	<a href="#">NCAA</a> , <a href="#">CDC</a>
Summer camps	High	High	Low	<a href="#">American Camp Association</a> , <a href="#">Association of Camp Nursing</a>
Institutions of higher education	High	High	High	<a href="#">CDC</a> , <a href="#">American College Health Association</a>
Residence halls and other overnight programs	High	Medium	Low	<a href="#">NYC guidance for congregate settings and residential buildings</a>



# Various approaches to reopening



## Reopening: Not “When?” But “How?”

Libraries consider the realities of a post-pandemic world

By Cass Balzer | April 17, 2020



Photo: © Drazan/Adobe Stock

- Staged re-opening
- Requiring public to wear masks
- Limiting number of people in the library
- Special hours for at-risk populations
- Removing furniture, desktop computers and children's toys
- Check out laptops
- Extending computer time
- Quarantine returned materials

# Start with a set of goals

---

1. Reduce transmission among employees
2. Maintain healthy library operations
3. Maintain a healthy work environment

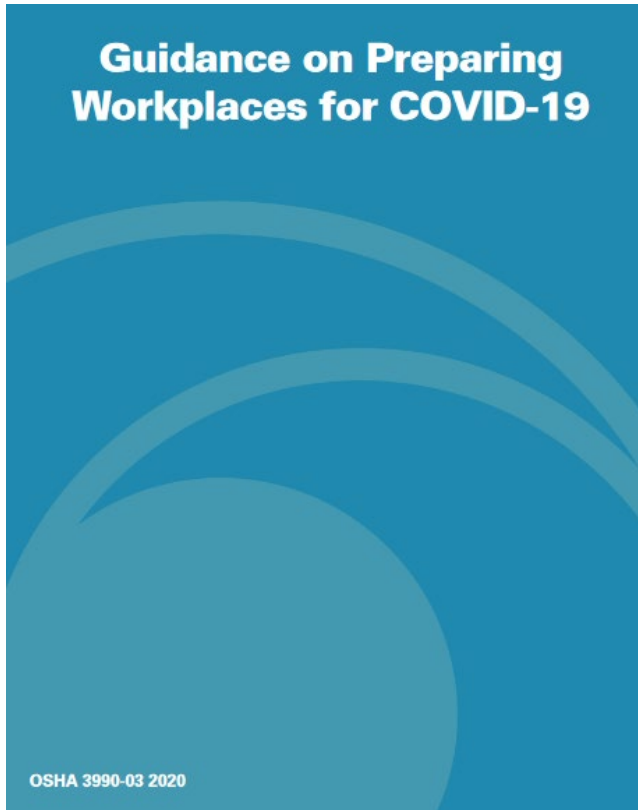


<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-business-response.html>





# Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID 19



- Installing high-efficiency air filters.
- Increasing ventilation rates in the work environment.
- Installing physical barriers, such as clear plastic sneeze guard

<https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3990.pdf>

# Example of phases of library service

Service/Access Tier	Full Digital	Curbside Pickup	Lobby & Main Desk	Limited Services	Precautionary
Library Pandemic Response Level	Level III: Temporary Closure	Level III: Temporary Closure	Level III: Temporary Closure	Level II: Moderated Services	Level I: Precautionary Measures
State Mandate	Stay at Home Order in Place	Stay at Home Lifted/Modified	Social Distancing, No Groups above 10-30?	Social Distancing, No Groups Above 50	Social Distancing
Hours of Operation	None	Limited (M-F 10-12 & 6-8, S 12-3)	Limited (M-F 10-12 & 6-8, S 12-3)	Regular Hours	Regular Hours
Materials	Digital Only	Digital Encouraged, Curbside Pickup w/ Phone & Online Orders	Digital Encouraged, Curbside, Main Desk Access Only for Requests	Digital Encouraged, Stacks Open	Stacks Open
Services	Digital Only	Digital Only	Notary, Copy, Fax, Scan	Notary, Copy, Fax, Scan, 1 Hour Computers, NO Toys, Seating, Newspapers, Coffee, Etc...	All Services, Limited Toys or Multi-Touch Items, Home-Bound Delivery Resumes?
Check-Out Method	Digital Only	Curbside Only	Curbside, Staff Only Check-Out	Touchless Check-Out	Touchless Check-Out
Returns	None, Auto-Renewal	Limited Hours for Outdoor Cart Returns	Limited Hours for Outdoor Cart, Indoor Book Drop Open	Book Drops Open, Set Return Guidelines for Extended Renewal Items	Book Drops Open, All Materials Deadlines Enforced
Staff in Building	< =3 With Advance Approval	Limited, <=4	Limited, <=4	All Staff Report for Regular Shifts, with Modifications	All Staff Report for Regular Shifts
Programs	Video and Digital	Videos, Digital, Make-and-Take Supplies	Videos, Digital, Make-and-Take Supplies	Videos, Digital, Make-and-Take Supplies	Small Group Programs of 10 or Less, Multiple Sessions if Necessary

Digital Services Include: reference, tech assistance, readers' advisory, temp cards, notary\*, website covid home page resources

<https://libraries.idaho.gov/wp-content/uploads/Vespasiam-Warner-PL-District-Reopening-SERVICE-LEVEL-TABLE.pdf>

# Examples of Library Reopening Plans

---

## **New Mexico State Library Draft Plan**

- <https://library.wyo.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Staged-Reopening-Plan.pdf>

## **Idaho Library Commission**

- <https://libraries.idaho.gov/wp-content/uploads/Piedmont-OK-Library-Phases-of-Re-Opening-Draft.pdf>



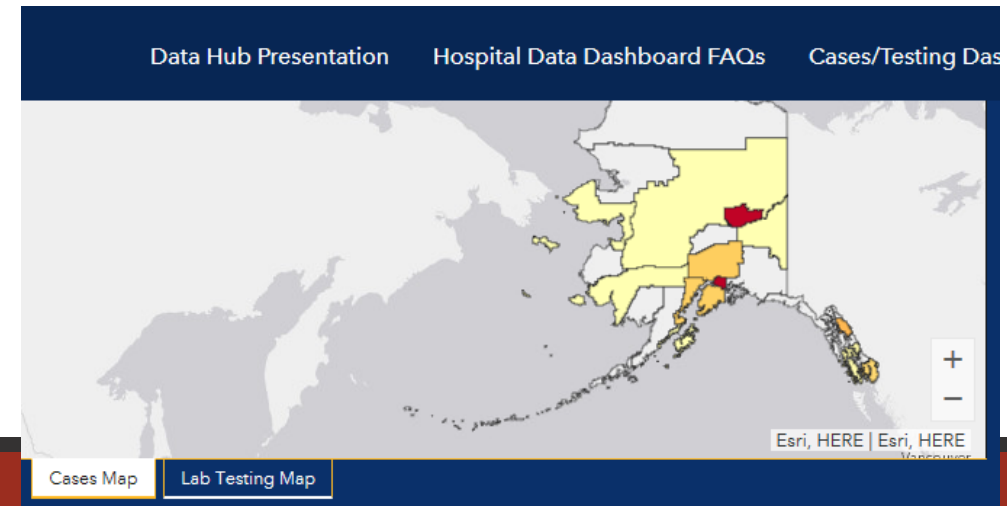
# Not sure about the level of transmission in your community?

Alaska Public Health Centers

<http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/wcfh/Pages/informedconsent/resources/publichealthcenters/default.aspx>

Alaska Department of Health and Social Services Coronavirus Response

<https://coronavirus-response-alaska-dhss.hub.arcgis.com/>



# Together we **will** get through this crisis.

---



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-NC-ND](#)

# Thank You

---

Julie M. Niederhauser  
Alaska State Library  
Public Library Coordinator

[Julie.Niederhauser@Alaska.gov](mailto:Julie.Niederhauser@Alaska.gov)

(907) 465-2916